

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Detailed Description (i.e., the fourth and fifth full paragraphs on page 8 of the Substitute Specification beginning with “Referring now to Fig. 2”) with the following amended paragraphs (additions indicated by underlining, deletions indicated by strikeouts):

Referring now to Fig. 2, the remote controls of set-top box (STB) 32 and of television set (TV set) 30 are combined in one device, control unit (RCU) 34 ~~42~~, already in a first integration stage. The new control unit 34 ~~42~~ receives a smart card interface 36 ~~34~~, capable of driving both smart card (ICC DVB) 38 of the pay TV system, as well as smart card (ICC BC) 40 of the backward channel. In terms of the functional sequence, the key exchange of the conditional access system (CAS) of the pay TV is carried out exactly as in the conventional configuration.

In Fig. 2, however, an IR interface 37 links smart card 38 via control unit 34 to the pay TV decryption chip 45 ~~42~~ (e.g., DVB) in set-top box 32. The same applies to smart card 40, which, at this point, likewise safeguards the backward channel via control unit 34 and its IR interface.